

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Immigration Committee
December 12, 2017 at 10:30 AM
Delaware State Police Museum, Dover, DE

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM. In attendance were: Adrienne Owen (DSP), Sabdi Vazquez (CLASI), Maribel Perez (La Esperanza), Akilah Seeney (DSP), Cindy Garcia (CLASI), Carolyn Becker (WPD Victim Services), Laura Graham (Committee Chair/CLASI), Maria Aguilar (Family Counseling Center), Belkys Sanchez (Family Counseling Center), Maite Aros (Child Inc.), Blanca Sandoval (NAMI Delaware), Kelly Head (CLASI), Kate Sell (CLASI), Emily Houde (CLASI), Bianca Martinez (Family Counseling Center), Jane Curschmann (CLASI), Nancy Carranza (Abriendo Puertas), Yvonne Dodd (La Red) and Sue Ryan (DCADV).

DVCC Staff: Moe Monagle and Aimee String

II. New Business

- a. Guest Speakers: Paula Elizabeth Lucano Gomez and Adscrita Rocio Vazquez Alvarez, Protection Department and the Women's Department at the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia.
- i. A consulate is a Mexican Government Office whose mission is to protect rights and interests of Mexican nationals. In Delaware there are 33,000 Mexican nationals, 200,000 in PA and 135,000 in Southern NJ. There are 12 million first generation Mexicans in the US.
 - ii. The Mexican consulate is the largest consulate network in the US with 50 offices throughout the US.
 - iii. There are periodically mobile consulates where all service are taken on the road. There is traditionally one in Dover, Sussex and Wilmington. Dates will be available on their calendar.
 - iv. In order to get services, a person needs to call the office. Clients will be told exactly what they need to bring with them. (1 855 463 6395).
 - v. The Consulate officers a wide variety of programs and services.
 - 1. Education
 - a. Partner with colleges to offer tuition assistance, scholarships and exchange education programs for Mexican nationals and first generation Mexicans.
 - 2. Consular Protection
 - a. They have the ability to work with authorities, visit jails and/or detention centers.
 - b. Can help pay for U and T VISA fees

- c. May be able to help with publication and/or service, i.e. for custody or divorce matters.
 - d. Can help with reunification of children and parents/family members who were deported to Mexico..
 - e. Financial assistance for humanitarian needs.
 - i. Can provide financial help to Mexican nationals/victims only one time (with some exceptions) and there are limits.
 - f. Can provide information and resources for low cost funeral services.
- 3. Consular Services
 - a. Documentation: passport, consular identification card, voter ID card, Military booklet
 - b. Civil Registry: Birth registration, Marriage registration, and Birth and Death Certificates
 - c. Notary: Powers of Attorney, Wills
- 4. Culture
- 5. Health
 - a. There are health stations open at the consulate Monday through Friday. They provide information about services; invite speakers to talk about preventative care and health care needs.
 - b. Provide free vaccination clinics (open to any nationality).
- 6. Economic Development
- 7. Leadership Training: Directed at helping Mexican nationals acclimate and excel in the United States.
- 8. Community empowerment
 - a. The “Window of Financial Literacy” program promotes literacy around building credit, healthy credit and other financial tools. Provide information about home buying, emergency planning, etc.
- 9. VAIM (The Initiative for Comprehensive Care Of Women): provides empowerment tools and protects women’s rights. Can help with relocation costs, psychological help, etc.
- vi. The Consulate office wants to hear about cases where due process was not met and cases where racial profiling is occurring.
- vii. More information available at: <https://consulmex2.sre.gob.mx/filadelfia/>
- b. Carolyn Becker inquired as to whether the committee is seeing an increased presence of ICE. The committee members stated that while there seems to be some increase in presence there does not seem to be any particular procedures or pattern.

III. Old Business

a. Resource Guide

- i. Aimee received numerous edits to the guide which have been incorporated into the new document. Some additional edit have been identified. Aimee will be meeting with Laura Graham after the meeting to get clarification on some edits. Following the final round of edits, Aimee will e-mail the updated draft to the committee for a final vote via email by the end of January. The guide is still scheduled to be finalized by the end of January which is in accordance with the original deadline.

b. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

- i. There are no updates at this time and will likely be no updates for the foreseeable future.

IV. Agency Reports

- a. There is a new person reviewing U-Visa Law Enforcement Certifications at the Department of Justice in New Castle County. Matt Hicks is the new prosecutor/DAG reviewing these I-918B's.
- b. The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence has completed a Domestic Violence Needs Assessment and will be sharing that report widely beginning later this week.
- c. New Castle County is hiring two people in the Victim Service Unit.
- d. The Family Counseling Center is currently operating out of a temporary location (600 South Harrison Street in Wilmington). They are looking forward to moving to their new location (301 N. Van Buren Street) in the Spring.

V. Next Meeting

- a. The committee discussed whether or not the current day of the week and time is working for committee members. The committee agreed to continue on Tuesdays at 10:30. Aimee will book the meeting dates at the DSP Museum and forward to the group.

After the conclusion of the meeting the following 2018 meeting dates were booked at the DSP Museum in Dover from 10:30-12:00.

Tuesday, March 6th

Tuesday, May 8th

Tuesday, September 4th

THURSDAY, December 6th